DC

36

FEAR STATE

CATWOMAN™

V
VAKUEVA
BELLAIRE

PAQUETTE
NF 21

THE FIGHT FOR IVY'S SOUL!

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

CATWOMAN

LONELY CITY

IN A WORLD WITHOUT BATMAN... WILL SELINA KYLE'S OLD WOUNDS TEAR GOTHAM APART?

Written, illustrated, colored, and lettered by

CLIFF CHIANG

DC BLACK LABEL AGES 17+

A 4-ISSUE PRESTIGE PLUS MASTERPIECE

OCTOBER

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ALLEYTOWN, GOTHAM.

UNIT R AT STAGING POINT. LOCATION IS SECURE. AWAITING DEPLOYMENT ORDERS.

DEPLOYMENT CONFIRMED. ASSET HAS RENDITION PROTOCOLS ACTIVE.

GROUND INTELLIGENCE SUGGESTS PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TARGETS ARE TO BE FOUND AT **DEFUNCT TERMINAL BUILDING** ON **GROVE STREET.**

"BE ADVISED, ALLEYTOWN AND AREAS SURROUNDING YOUR LOCATIONS ARE ACTIVE CONFLICT ZONES WHERE **MAGISTRATE PERSONNEL** HAVE BEEN GRANTED USE OF **LETHAL FORCE.**

"PROCEED WITH DUE CAUTION."

FEAR STATE 2: SANCTUARY

RAM V WRITER NINA VAKUEVA & LAURA BRAGA ARTISTS
JORDIE BELLAIRE COLORIST TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERER
YANICK PAQUETTE & NATHAN FAIRBAIRN COVER
JENNY FRISON VARIANT COVER BEN MEARES ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JESSICA CHEN EDITOR BEN ABERNATHY GROUP EDITOR

"PRIMARY TARGET IS DR. PAMELA ISLEY, A.K.A. **POISON IVY.** TARGET IS TO BE RETRIEVED, FAILING WHICH, TARGET IS TO BE **ELIMINATED.**

"SECONDARY TARGET: **SELINA KYLE, THE CATWOMAN.** TARGET IS TO BE ELIMINATED.

"FULL TACTICAL COMMAND AND USE OF LETHAL FORCE-- APPROVED."

DID YOU GET ALL OF THAT, SELINA?

I ONLY RELAYED WHAT I THOUGHT WAS USEFUL.

WE'RE TAPPED INTO MAGISTRATE'S FIELD COMMS AND I'M GETTING A TON OF ACTIVITY BACK HERE.

THE MAGISTRATE ARE MAKING THEIR MOVE.

THE HOODED ONE ON THE BIKE LOOKED MEAN.

SHE IS.

"WE'VE TANGLED BEFORE.*

BUT THE THING THAT WORRIES ME?

HOW DID THEY KNOW ABOUT IVY BEING AT THE TERMINAL BUILDING?

*UNRAVEL THE TANGLE IN CATWOMAN #29! --JESS

A QUESTION FOR ANOTHER DAY.

NYGMA, CAN YOU COORDINATE PEOPLE ON THE GROUND TO SECURE A ROUTE TO THE DOCKS?

YOU'RE GOING TO *MOVE* HER? IVY?

I JUST WANT THAT *OPTION.* WORST-CASE SCENARIO, WE GET IVY OUT THROUGH THE DOCKS-- AS WITH MAGGIE.*

THINK YOU CAN PUT ALL THE PIECES IN PLACE?

*SEE LAST ISSUE! --JESSICA

NO PROBLEM AT ALL.

TKTKTKTKTKTK

Riddle me this.

Too pretty to weed out and yet she's climbing all your walls.

What is a good gardener to do?

SEND

new message

QWAK

=SNRRRT=
IVY.

THEY'RE MOVING IVY...

HEY, SHOES?

I MEAN... CHESHIRE CAT.

THANKS...

...I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE CUT AND RUN IF YOU HADN'T STOPPED ME.

SELINA... THIS WHOLE PLACE? EVERYONE FIGHTING TO STAY, TO KEEP IT FREE?

ALL WE USED TO DO WAS TRY TO CUT AND RUN FROM HERE BEFORE *YOU* SHOWED UP.

IT ALWAYS TAKES *SOMEONE ELSE.*

WHERE WILL YOU GO NOW?

NOT VERY FAR. I'VE GOT FRIENDS TO SEE, FAVORS TO CALL IN, AND QUITE A CAPER TO PULL.

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE IN ALLEYTOWN.

K-RRRAAAAAG

K-THWOOO

CHK

AH CRAP...!

THOOSH

WHOOSH

THEY'RE @%~£%$^ RELENTLESS!

YEAH--WE'RE SLOWING THEM DOWN BUT THERE'S NO STOPPING THIS, BASIL.

NOT UNLESS WE HAVE ANOTHER PLAN.

KRAK

PLAN B

MISTAH CROC IS QUITE RIGHT, YOU KNOW? I NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT A *PLAN B.*

HARLEY QUINN?

PLAN B

WE MEET AGAIN, MISTAH FACE!

WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME, HARLEY. WE NEED TO KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING.

I BELIEVE YOU SAID, "I'VE GOT FRIENDS IN ALLEYTOWN AND THEY'LL TAKE US RIGHT TO HER."

GOSH, YES! OF COURSE!

MISTAH FACE, WE WERE WONDERIN'...

I--I DON'T SUPPOSE...YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO POINT THE *GARDENER* AND MYSELF TOWARD THE CLOSEST PAMMY, WOULD YOU, PUDDIN'?

WH-WHAT'S A P-PAMMY?

SHE MEANS PAMELA ISLEY...

SHE MEANS *IVY.*

OHMIGOD, IT'S THE *CATWOMAN!*

SHE IS *SO* COOL! I WANT TO BE HER WHEN I GROW UP.

WE'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS, CATWOMAN.

WE'VE BEEN DOING WHAT WE CAN--BUT *THE MAGISTRATE'S* NUMBERS AND RESOURCES MEAN WE'RE NOT EVEN SLOWING THEM DOWN BY MUCH.

AND THINGS KEEP GOING THIS WAY, THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE MUCH OF ALLEYTOWN LEFT TO PROTECT.

IF WE DON'T GET TO PAMELA ISLEY...THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE MUCH OF *GOTHAM* LEFT TO PROTECT.

IT'S CONNECTED...IT'S ALL CONNECTED.

ALLEYTOWN, GOTHAM, THE DRUGS, IVY, SIMON SAINT, THE MAGISTRATE-- *EVERYTHING.*

RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE ALL COMING FOR IVY AND I'VE GOT A PLAN.

ONE LAST CON TO PULL.

AND ALL I NEED IS A CREW.

OKAY? SO WHAT'S THE PLAN?

"THE PLAN IS SIMPLE: WE'RE SPREAD TOO THIN AND THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM.

"AND THIS WHOLE TIME WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO PROTECT ALLEYTOWN. *I'VE* BEEN TRYING TO PROTECT EVERYTHING I'VE BUILT.

"BUT I'VE HAD REASON TO LOOK AT MY MOTIVES FOR BEING HERE.

"NONE OF IT MATTERS IF I CAN'T KEEP MY PEOPLE SAFE.

"THEY'RE COMING AFTER IVY NOW. IT ALL CONNECTS BACK TO HER, YOU SEE?

"THE *WIGHT WITCH* IS HERE WORKING WITH THE MAGISTRATE.

TAK

"AND THE LAST TIME I SAW HER SHE WAS GOING AFTER NYGMA, WHO HAD CONNECTED IVY TO *ROY* AND SO, TO *SIMON SAINT.*

"WE'RE GOING TO GET IVY OUT OF HERE.

"RIDDLER AND THE STRAYS HAVE A ROUTE MAPPED OUT AND A TRANSPORT BEING SET UP TO GET IVY TO THE DOCKS."

"SHOES IS ON THOSE ROOFTOPS KEEPING THE NETWORK RUNNING AND WE'RE TALKING TO GOTHAM. TO PEOPLE ON OUR SIDE.

HELP IS ON ITS WAY. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET THE MAGISTRATE'S ATTENTION AND HOLD THIS PLACE, UNTIL HELP GETS HERE.

YOU KNOW THIS IS A ***SIEGE,*** RIGHT? YOU'RE PULLING BACK TO THE HOLD, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE AN EXIT STRATEGY.

I ***AM*** THE EXIT STRATEGY.

I'M THE SECONDARY TARGET.

IF THIS GOES SOUTH, I'LL LEAD THEM ON A CHASE AND TURN MYSELF IN. IT SHOULD GIVE YOU ALL THE WINDOW TO GO TO GROUND.

SELINA...

I'M DONE WATCHING PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT GET PULLED UNDER THE WHEELS OF GREATER MACHINATIONS.

SO I'VE GOT ONE LAST CON TO PULL.

CAN I ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR, BASIL?

ANYTHING...

EVERY GOOD CON BEGINS WITH A PITCH. A PROPOSAL OF CIRCUMSTANCES AS THEY ARE.

EVERY GOOD CON RELIES ON THE FACT THAT THE MARK WANTS SOMETHING BAD ENOUGH TO MAKE POOR CHOICES.

THEY ALL WANT IVY BAD ENOUGH TO COME INTO MY TOWN, GUNS BLAZING AND BOOTS ON THE GROUND.

YOU TRUST ME, RIGHT, IVY?

YOU'RE ALL BITE AND CLAWS, CAT. BUT I SEE YOU. I FEEL YOU.

I WANTED BAD ENOUGH TO COME BACK AND SHOW EVERYONE WHO THE CATWOMAN REALLY WAS.

YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO COME BACK HOME, WEREN'T YOU?

I SUPPOSE THAT'S THE GRIFTER LIFE. HOPING THAT YOUR MARK MAKES POORER CHOICES THAN YOURS.

"HERE'S HOW IT'LL ALL PLAY OUT.

"THEY'LL COME FOR US FROM ALL SIDES. HOPING TO WEAR US DOWN WITH NUMBERS.

"FIREFLY AND KNOCKOUT WILL HOLD THEM OFF, BUT WE CAN'T KEEP THEM OUT FOREVER.

"THE ONE IN THE MASK. THE WIGHT WITCH. SHE'S FOCUSED, RELENTLESS, AND DIRECT.

"SHE'S ALREADY FOUGHT ME ONCE. SHE'LL COME STRAIGHT FOR US.

KR-BOOM

"BUT THAT'S WHERE SHE'LL MAKE HER FIRST POOR CHOICE."

"IT WON'T JUST BE *ME* SHE'S FIGHTING."

"SHE'S GOOD AND SHE'S GOT BACKUP.

"BUT I'VE GOT HARLEY QUINN AND A PLAN B.

"AND THE GARDENER--SHE'S NO IVY, BUT SHE'S NOT HALF BAD.

"MAYBE WE STAND A CHANCE.

"MAYBE WE DON'T.

"EITHER WAY IT'LL BE *TOO LATE.*"

"BECAUSE THE THING THEY CAME FOR?

I'M PICKING IVY UP NOW, NYGMA. WHAT'S THE WORD?

"WILL HAVE ALREADY GOTTEN AWAY."

OKAY, WE'VE GOT THEM ALL BUSY. PULL OUT FROM THE BACK ONTO THE HIGHWAY ACCESS AND THEN ONTO THE FREEWAY.

AND BILLY...?

"STEP ON IT AND DON'T TAKE YOUR FOOT OFF THE GAS."

ALL ASSETS BE ADVISED, ACTIVITY AT THE BACK OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING.

THEY'RE ATTEMPTING TO MOVE THE TARGET.

ROUTING MAGISTRATE DRONES TO TRACK THE VEHICLE.

NOW... SEND OUT THE REST.

BE ADVISED, MULTIPLE IDENTICAL VEHICLES EXITING THE TERMINAL BUILDING.

RE-ROUTING ADDITIONAL DRONES TO PURSUIT... B-BUT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH IN THE AREA TO PURSUE ALL OF THEM.

PLEASE ADVISE COURSE OF ACTION?

RECOMMEND RE-ROUTING ASSET--

THWACK

PLAN B! WORKS EVERY TIME!

BE ADVISED, ACTIVE ASSET WIGHT WITCH IS DOWN.

CLEARANCE TO INITIATE POWER RECALIBRATION PROTOCOLS.

RECOMMISSION ASSETS **WIGHT WITCH** VERSIONS **FOUR** AND **TWELVE.**

DESIGNATE PURSUIT OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TARGETS.

ACTIVATION CONFIRMED.

NEXT: WITCHCRAFT!

THE WAR FOR EARTH ISN'T JUST BEGINNING...IT'S ALREADY HERE!

DC VS. VAMPIRES

Written by JAMES TYNION IV and MATTHEW ROSENBERG | Art by OTTO SCHMIDT

A new 12-issue series | October

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

TASK FORCE Z

INTERVIEW WITH MATTHEW ROSENBERG

Red Hood charges in with a team of Gotham's greatest undead villains in *Task Force Z*, from writer Matthew Rosenberg and artist Eddy Barrows.

WHAT WAS SOME UNDEAD HORROR INSPIRATION YOU DELVED INTO BEFORE WRITING THIS SERIES?

I've always been a huge fan of zombie movies! Obviously, filmmakers like George A. Romero and Lucio Fulci were extremely influential. However, I also love when a movie can totally upend everything we know about the genre.

In terms of comics, *iZombie* and *DCeased* are both books that I love and revisited for this. We're trying to stay true to the genre, but also do something incredibly unique.

EDDY BARROWS LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING WAY TOO MUCH FUN DRAWING THIS BOOK...ANY CHANCE HE'S SOME SORT OF UNDEAD ART ZOMBIE?

Eddy was born to draw stuff like this. He's making one of the most beautiful yet horrific comics I've ever seen. He's channeling everything from Bernie Wrightson to Jack Davis in the most beautiful ways.

RED HOOD HAS HAD A...LET'S CALL IT "WEIRD" RELATIONSHIP WITH DEATH OVER THE YEARS. HOW DOES HIS PAST INFORM HOW HE LEADS A TEAM OF DEAD VILLAINS?

Jason's history is something that informs everything he does. He's probably the ideal candidate to lead this team, as he knows how dark and painful resurrection can be. However, he's also not someone who has a lot of compassion for the wicked...or himself. Leading this team will be a struggle for him.

CAN YOU TEASE A PARTICULAR SCENE THAT'S GOING TO CREEP FANS OUT?

The last page of the first issue when Jason finds out what his team is really capable of. In a lot of ways, this book is a battle between the human and the monstrous sides of each team member. The last page shows us that it might not be the human side that comes out on top.

WHICH TASK FORCE Z MEMBER IS SURPRISINGLY THE MOST FUN TO WRITE AND WHY?

Man-Bat. I guess that's not really that surprising. He's a giant zombie bat monster. That's just about as fun as it gets in comics!

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THIS BOOK IN ONE WORD THAT STARTS WITH THE LETTER Z?

"Zugzwang." It sums up Jason's whole arc in this series perfectly.

DON'T MISS
TASK FORCE Z #1
ON SALE IN OCTOBER!

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"